Over-crowding in Transport Buses.

2. *MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: Will the Government be pleased to state whether in ordinary buses run by the Transport Department passengers are admitted regardless of the limit to the standing space prescribed?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP (*Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertallai*): May I know from the honourable member whether he has inspected and counted the passengers in the buses while in transit?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Sir, there has been to some extent overcrowding in these buses but such overcrowding is not of the character described by the honourable member.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know from the honourable member whether a circular has not been issued by the Transport Department that there should be no overcrowding above forty?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: I claim notice.

MR. N. NARAYANA KURUP: May I know from the honourable member whether the department is aware that the ordinary number carried in a bus is more than fifty?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Sir, owing to the emergency consequent upon the shortage of petrol, the department has necessarily to allow a certain extent of overcrowding, not to the extent of being dangerous or undesirable, but perhaps beyond the statutory number prescribed for each bus. This has become inevitable owing to the present circumstances. Without risk of danger or great inconvenience a certain latitude has therefore to be allowed in this respect.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. There has been a considerable amount of public agitation and controversy in the newspapers regarding this matter. It may be as well to indicate the exact position. There is no doubt that on account of the very strict petrol rationing and the exit of a large number of private vehicles both of the public transport and private luxury vehicle types, there is a certain amount of over-crowding in our transport vehicles. And there is no doubt that that over-crowding is bound to increase because in the course of the next few months perhaps, if not weeks, the shortage of petrol may get very much more accentuated and it is doubtful whether much petrol will be available for either public or private use in India; and to the extent to which charcoal gas is being substituted for petrol, to that extent alone may public vehicles be available. At one time it was the desire of Government that there should be a considerable amount of encouragement for travelling. But on this occasion I think it is necessary for me to make an appeal and to utter a warning. The appeal is that under present conditions no person should travel from place to place unless there is an absolute necessity. Every person who travels in a public vehicle is to that extent contributing not only to the overcrowding but to making the shortage of petrol more critical. Unless

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there is absolute business, I appeal to the people of the State not to travel in public vehicles or in their own private vehicles. The position is going to be very very serious indeed. I may mention that in the near future it may happen that 50, 60, even 70 people will have to travel in a public vehicle. So long as the vehicle can get along without breaking down, steps should be taken to keep things going. Moreover, I want honourable members to realise that the tyre shortage is going to be as keen as the petrol shortage. There is practically no private owner in the United States to-day who is allowed to buy any tyres; in other words, all private luxury cars are laid aside and the United States are contemplating forcibly taking over the tyres from private individuals and when such a state of things is happening in a place which contains 75 per cent. of the tolal automobile vehicles in the world you can well understand where we are. The tyre shortage is already getting very acute. Thanks to the arrangements made by this Government about a year ago, we are absolutely sure of our tyres for the next three to six months. Sufficient stock, actual and potential, has been provided for. But there is a tyre shortage.

There is a third shortage. It is impossible to get spare parts from outside in regard to the vehicles. If any of our public vehicles break down, they may have to be put back into the garage because there are no spare parts available. Shipments of luxury vehicles or spare parts for them will not be allowed by Government. Shippings from the United States are prohibited; shippings from England are impossible; and shipping from Canada are equally difficult. So, unless and until a new motor industry starts in India, no spare parts will be available in India. This is the position in Travancore and in India at the present time.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the same rules apply in the case of private buses and taxi cars?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: To the extent possible.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM: In view of the explanation given by the President and the honourable membler who answered the question, may I know why a flat 'no' is given as answer?

PRESIDENT: It is a psychological attitude that is involved in the answer.

Women Police.

3. ⁂**MR. KAVIYOOR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement, by caste, of the Women Police in the Police Department?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA KHAN BAHADUR G. S. ABDUL KARIM SAHIB SUHRAWARDY (*Inspector-General of Police*): The *statement is laid on the table.

MR. KAVIYOOR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU: അവശസമുദായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ടവർ മുന്നു എന്നു പട്ടികയിൽ കാണുന്നു. ഇവർ അവശരിൽ ഏതു സമുദായത്തിൽപ്പെട്ടവരാണെന്നു പറയുവാൻ ദയവുണ്ടാകുമോ?

* *Vide* Appendix I page 55.

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